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The Library Assistant

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VOL. XV.

EDITED BY HENRY A. SHARP, F.L.A.
(Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon).

No. 14.

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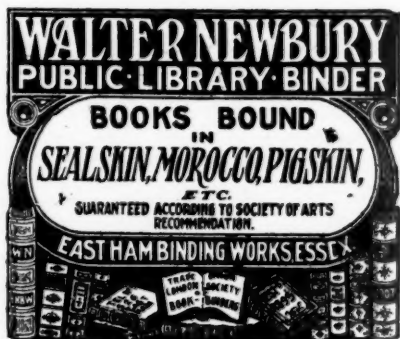
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Through the kind permission of the College Authorities, the next General Meeting will be held at University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Wednesday, **23rd March**, when Dr. R. W. Chambers, M.A., D.Litt., will preside. **Lt.-Col. J. M. Mitchell, O.B.E., M.C., B.A.**, Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, will address the Association on the "Library Policy of the Carnegie Trustees."

This is a subject which is exciting no small measure of interest amongst some of our members, and the lecturer has intimated that he anticipates the pleasure of a passage of arms with them.

Junior Meeting.—A meeting for the younger members of the Association and others will be held at 6.30 p.m., at the same place and on the same date as the ordinary general meeting. There will be a debate on "Specialised Work."

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

The next Meeting will be held at the **Wigan Public Library** on Wednesday, **March 16th**, at 6.30 p.m.

There will be a discussion on "Our Future." The proceedings will be quite informal, and it is hoped that all present will be prepared to take part.

A meeting of the Council will take place at 3.30 p.m.

Will members please note that individual notices will not be sent out, in view of this announcement. Those intending to be present are requested to notify me not later than Monday, March 14th.

REGINALD G. WILLIAMS,

Central Lending Library,
Bolton.

Hon. Secretary.

Subscriptions: The Honorary Treasurer of the North-Western Branch (Mr. Harold Hamar, Reference Library, Bolton), will be pleased to receive subscriptions for the current year.

Council Vacancy Filled.—The vacancy on the non-London side of Council announced in our last issue was filled at the February general meeting. We regard it as a sign of revived interest that there should have been such keen competition for the seat, no less than five nominations having been received,

viz., Messrs. Clinch (Ealing), Fry (Manchester), Kirby (Wood Green), Patrick (Birmingham), and Sandry (West Ham). A vote having been taken, Mr. Sandry was declared elected. We have much pleasure in welcoming Mr. Sandry to the Council. He has been a keen member of the Association for many years, and has contributed regularly to the discussions at the monthly meetings. We are confident that Mr. Sandry will enter the duties with his customary enthusiasm and willingness to do his full share of work for the furtherance of the objects of the L.A.A.

A Suggested Holiday Register.—It was suggested at the January General Meeting that the Association should establish a Holiday Register for the use of members. In order that the register may be brought into operation in time for the coming holiday season, the Honorary Editor will be glad to receive particulars (as full as possible), of apartments, etc., which readers are able to recommend. A further announcement respecting the register will appear in our next issue.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1919.*

BY FRANK E. SANDRY, F.L.A., *West Ham*.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The first thought that will probably occur to you *a propos* of my subject is that any treatment of the matter at the present date is premature.

The influence of legislative enactments, you may say, can never be estimated truly at close range. Account has to be taken of the interplay of many factors in the social life with which the immediate subject has more or less close relation. The effect of laws dealing with the more material and practical activities of life can be handled at an earlier date than that of enactments relating to the intellectual and spiritual spheres, but in all cases some historical perspective is essential. With all this applied in a general way I fully concur. A second thought, however, will show that the Act has already had an important, even a momentous influence. Indeed, it is due to the operation of one or two clauses of the recent Act that most of us can refer the fact that we are to-day librarians at all.

I propose, therefore, first, to deal with those effects of the Act which are patent to all, and then to attempt the more difficult task of indicating the lines of its further influences,

* Paper read before the L.A.A. at Southwark, 10th November, 1920.

so far as present conditions and tendencies, as I understand them, warrant.

It will first of all be useful to consider the causes which produced the Act. These were chiefly economic. The financial restrictions imposed by the earlier Acts and confirmed in the later ones, producing our old friend, "the penny rate," were based on the assumption of a more or less fixed purchasing value of the pound sterling. In other words, a persistent relationship was assumed between the value of money and of commodities; an assumption which is fundamentally unsound, as we are at present acutely aware. As the purchasing power of the sovereign decreased we came at last to receiving instead of one penny, an amount considerably less than a halfpenny. The result was the recent deplorable state of affairs, when the bulk of the public libraries in this country had suspended or curtailed their activities, *or* were continuing their work under an accumulating load of debt. The new Act was primarily designed to meet this state of affairs. It is a remedial measure and consequently its influence is first a healing one.

In parenthesis I should like to say that if, at the moment, I appear to have been labouring the obvious, I hope further on to show that these considerations have important bearings. Meanwhile, it will be noted, that the very unstable relation between money and prices, forms a powerful argument against fixed rates, whether they are rates raised by a town or standardised rates of wages.

The healing influence, as I have called it, of the new Act, is the immediate and very important one. As you know, it has enabled accumulated debts to be paid, suspended or curtailed activities to be restored, and further, what has a very personal interest for us, has enabled library committees to adopt fair scales of salaries equally with other committees of an authority. In short, the Act enables us to preserve and continue what has been done in the past: it ensures our continuity.

We now come to the difficult and hazardous business of prophecy. What will be the influence of the Act in the future? Here we must try to avoid the proverbial tendency of the wish to become father of the thought. It seems to be assumed in some quarters that with the passing of the rate restriction, our ends are attained, and there is no further need for effort. The position is never stated so explicitly,

but this is what it amounts to. The true view seems to be that we have now got freer conditions and wider scope, and must renew former efforts and commence fresh ones. We have got, not the millennium, but an opportunity.

Our opportunity, however, is a conditioned one, and it seems to me to be conditioned by several factors. In the first place, one must bear in mind that educational and cultural development depends on the stability of a country's economic and social life. At the present time this country is in the throes of a politico-economic revolution, or, if you prefer it, an accelerated evolutionary process. The possibilities are grave, the developments very uncertain, and while the past history of the country gives no ground for pessimistic predictions, yet the effect of any considerable interruption of the public life upon library development, must be realised.

The next factor by which our opportunity is conditioned is the formidable one of public opinion, and to this is closely related the third, namely, our own collective attitude and effort. Everybody here is aware of some public opinion, either hostile or indifferent, to Public Libraries, but we might not agree as to its extent. The passing of the new Act led some to infer an unjustifiable degree of public support. It is here that I want to hark back to what I said on the causes of the Act, which were said to be mainly economic. What the position practically amounted to was that the government would become aware of an anomalous situation through its Local Government Board. The local auditors would surcharge amounts expended beyond the produce of the statutory rate, then the Board would have to remit the surcharges, and so on. However this may be, it is plain that the government acted from necessity. The Act was framed to meet an immediate need, and such modifications and additional provisions as represented extra-governmental opinion were incidental. Nobody, I trust, will misconstrue these remarks as in any sense belittling the efforts of the Library Association in the matter or the valued assistance of the Right Honourable gentleman who is this year its President. The point I wish to make is that their efforts were not sufficiently backed by public opinion to secure any definite result. Nothing was obtained until the fixed rate fallacy led to a state where something had to be done. What is the bearing of all this upon our future development?

You remember the story of the man pleading guilty to a charge of theft who remarked: "I must live somehow," and the magistrate's retort: "I don't see the necessity." We are to some extent in that man's position. A large number of the public do not admit the necessity for public libraries. While the fact of our national supremacy as producers of great literature is true, and whatever truth there may be in the talk of the English being a reading nation, it is still true that the number of people who have reached the stage where reading is a necessity, is comparatively small. Further, the number of those who realise that the public library supplies a vital need and is the best and most economical means of supplying such need, is probably smaller. To the majority the public library is at best an amenity of our social life; but it is a luxury and not a necessity. This view is naturally reflected in their representatives, the councils and library committees. It follows that in the times of economic stress which are sure to follow the war there will be a disinclination to undertake increased expenditure on what is regarded as a luxury.

What, then, is to be done? It seems to me that the remedy lies in educating public opinion. It must be proved that the Public Library, both from the point of view of knowledge and of imagination, supplies a vital need. To do this on the knowledge side is fairly easy. It can soon be demonstrated that carefully digested and recorded experience relating to commerce and industry has practical value. Probably increased provision of commercial and technical sections will soon meet with increased demand and support. What is more important for national welfare and our full justification is the cultivation of the imagination. It must be insisted with Milton that "a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit," and we must insist on the inspiration to be obtained from the great ideas and noble thoughts treasured up in literature, and help readers to the actual experience of that inspiration. *Non nostrum tantas*—I leave it to you to work out the ways and means to this desired end. In regard to the general question of public opinion, however, I should like to suggest the importance of publicity and co-operation.

It is not enough to make books available if the public are unaware of the fact. Perfect organization and liberal administration must of course form the basis, and these I will for the present assume. A good deal of harm may

result from misdirected or unseasonable energy in this direction. But you will agree that there are very few public libraries in this country, who are employing publicity in the way, and to the extent that it might be employed; while co-operation is to-day in its most rudimentary stage. Co-operation is essential to knowledge, for without it each investigator would begin *ab initio*, and one generation would be as ignorant as the first. And it seems that co-operation is necessary to our development as it is to the progress of knowledge. There is no need to enumerate the many ways in which it could be of assistance, but just one example. It was pointed out years ago that each library is a little heap of books, with no relationship between one heap and another, while the reader at one has no knowledge of what the others contain. Yet a book that he needs may be in the adjacent heap. Would it not be easy to remedy this matter through the medium of the Library Association? Surely librarians as a profession are competent to deal with such things? I hope you will discuss the question of publicity and co-operation as factors in the education of public opinion.

The obvious need for co-operation will be made more obvious in the future by the operation of a clause of the Act that we have not yet considered. That is the clause by which the County Council becomes a library authority, with powers to create by resolution library areas covering all or part of the county and to raise rates for its upkeep. Something like a dozen counties have already moved in the matter, some of them with the assistance of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. As the Trustees point out, however, in their last Annual Report: "The extent to which authorities will avail themselves of these new powers, it is impossible to foresee with certainty. Inquiries which have been hitherto made disclose the very natural fact that authorities have been as yet unable to focus the new situation." And further: "Small as is the rate required in County areas, the general increase in rates for various purposes will necessarily compel authorities to proceed with caution." We may expect, however, that ultimately a network of county libraries will be established and we shall have a complete national system of libraries, as far as England is concerned.

There is not time for a detailed discussion of the many points of interest that arise in connection with rural libraries. In this direction the Act will have a wide range of

influence. One cannot doubt that such provision is one step towards solving the problem presented by rural depopulation. The enthusiasm which has greeted the inauguration of the rural schemes already undertaken show that they are really needed. Indeed rural library provision is long overdue, as is made clear by the consideration of the many remote county areas in which any effective range of reading is very hard to come at. If they are well-organized, as no doubt they will be, they will become an important section of the library world in the future. It is interesting to consider what will be their relations with existing public libraries. The county library districts will often adjoin the area of an existing authority and probably arrangements will be made between them for serving border districts. There seems to be every reason for close interworking, and there is no doubt that the new systems could derive very material assistance in their early years, from established urban libraries in their respective counties.

Perhaps the most drastic provision of the New Act is that relating to Museums. It is provided that where a district for which a museum has been provided is, or becomes, a library district, the museum shall be transferred to the library authority of the district, and be maintained by that authority. One imagines that, looking at the situation from the curator's point of view, there is ground for some apprehension lest the museum becomes absorbed in the library system without being co-ordinated with it. Providing the museum is given its proper place and maintained efficiently there seems good reason for a close association between the two institutions. They are dissimilar in their methods but have common aims, and can afford much mutual assistance when administered with that end in view. One hesitates to approach the subject of a single executive head for the two institutions, because while such an arrangement commends itself, provided the librarian fills the post, the suggestion that the choice might fall on the curator, puts a very different complexion on the case. Still it seems not unreasonable to assume that the Act will result in some such fusion.

Given certain conditions, then, there is now the opportunity of developing the different departments of our work and also of extending library provision to areas which have hitherto lacked it. Our work in the past, valuable as it has been, has always been incomplete, stunted by the inadequate means upon which it was carried out. Mr. Pacy, in his Norwich Conference paper, looks back from the vantage point

of forty years' library experience, upon the achievements of public libraries during the first seventy years of their existence, and complains: "A is interested in little else but commercial libraries: B has made a pet of his children's department: C has a newsroom: D objects to them on principle: E buys fiction reluctantly: at F the borrower can obtain only fiction, etc." This is largely true, and as far as it is true, is a damning fact against the half-starving policy of the old regime. For, why did A only have a commercial library, and B only a children's library, among their departments, one only which was approximately adequate, and which thus excited remark. For a very simple and sufficient reason. Not because A had only room for one idea in his head at a time, nor because poor B was a monomaniac, but because it was only *possible* to be partly efficient on the means at their disposal. Mr. Pacy seems to think it is because there was no central control. Are we then to understand that there is some magic power in central control that would have provided adequate commercial and technical libraries, adequate children's libraries, and all the other things we desiderate, *all* out of a penny rate?

(*To be concluded.*)

PROCEEDINGS.

The February General Meeting was held at the Central Library, Islington, on Wednesday, 16th February. The chair was occupied by Mr. Councillor F. N. A. Humphreys, Chairman of the Islington Libraries Committee, and a very able address was delivered by Mr. G. D. H. Cole, a prime worker in the Adult Education movement, and author of many works dealing with economic questions, on Libraries and Adult Education.

The vacancy on the non-London side of the Council occasioned through the retirement of Mr. J. E. Walker, upon his appointment to the Borough Librarianship of Fulham, was filled by the election of Mr. F. E. Sandry, of the West Ham Public Libraries, the other nominees being Messrs. Clinch (Ealing), Fry (Manchester), Kirby (Wood Green), and Patrick (Birmingham).

Mr. Cole, in his opening remarks, said that he was trying to speak from the point of view of a particular kind of user of libraries, and of the way in which the provision of libraries and the use of them where they had been provided, affected a certain type of student, and a type that was growing very rapidly with the advance of education in the labour movement. He was quite aware that the question that would immediately arise in the minds of his audience was the one of money. The failure to make adequate library provision for the needs of students had come mainly from the lack of money.

Mr. Cole then went on to speak briefly on the Reports of the Committee on Adult Education of the Ministry of Reconstruction, and of the ideas that that committee had in mind. It had set out with the definite assumption that there was going to be an increased demand for education on the part of the working classes. In fact it was quite clear that there was a far greater demand for it than ever before, but it was unlikely that anything

would be done to extend the facilities for adult education, unless the working class organizations put their demand into a definite form and showed that they were prepared to give backing to the demand. He hoped that when adult education was brought properly before the Trades Unions movement the government would then be induced to give the necessary financial support.

Mr. Cole proceeded to explain where, in his view, libraries came in in this connection. In the first place, if a demand is stimulated for classes of the types that had been so successful in the past, these classes will require books. The means of providing books had been gradually catching up to the demand, for when the adult education movement began there was no organization which made it its business to see to the supply of books to students. But now small collections had been accumulated by various organizations and from these reservoirs one attempts to draw the indispensable books. He was emphatically in favour of setting up such a Central Circulating Library as had been suggested in the Third Interim Report of the Adult Education Committee, and spoke appreciatively of the work that had been already done by the Central Library for Students.

He recognised that the public library was only in a position to buy one copy of a book such as the student wanted, so that in his view there must be some circulating set of books. That difficulty had been dealt with to some extent by sending out boxes of books from the reservoirs previously referred to. The speaker decried the system in operation at so many public libraries whereby one had no preliminary opportunity of inspecting such books as one might or might not want. Every student should be quite at liberty to browse round a library at will. He thought that the practice of putting nearly all the books most likely to be required by students in the Reference Library was even worse from the student's point of view than placing the single copy in the Lending Library. To his mind there was no doubt whatever that the Lending Library was nearly always the most useful place, unless of course the library was in the fortunate position of being able to buy two copies, one for circulation and the other for reference only.

Another great difficulty in the path of the adult student was that of finding a suitable place in which to study, and he would like to urge the establishment of students' rooms where the student could pursue his studies amid congenial surroundings. If libraries could provide a sort of centre for the student in this respect, he thought it would go a long way towards inducing him to make regular use of the library, and above all of the librarian. He recognized in this last connection that the librarian could not himself be a specialist in everything, but even so he was in a far better position to find out the best books to consult. He had himself conducted many tutorial classes, and in a large number of them the members never thought of going to the librarian for what they wanted. Wherever possible too, Mr. Cole advocated the provision of meeting facilities in libraries. He also wondered whether, in connection with tutorial classes, some arrangement could be made between publishers and libraries whereby a student could have an opportunity of examining books pertaining to his studies with the option of purchasing if he desired. He suggested that far more liberal facilities should be accorded to students as to the number of books that they might borrow at a time, and as to the period over which they might be borrowed, and in illustration of his point he cited the liberal arrangements in operation at the London Library.

Mr. Cole concluded by referring to the conditions of the rural districts and warmly supported the attempts being made to provide more adequate reading facilities for the student of the countryside.

In the course of the ensuing discussion, which was vigorously maintained, it was pointed out to Mr Cole that in very many libraries, a good deal of the kind of work that he had suggested was being already done, and the only reason that the whole of his suggestions could not be carried into operation was the financial limitations under which libraries in general were working even now. The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Mr. Cole for his valuable address, to Mr. Councillor Humphreys for presiding, and to the Islington Libraries Committee for permission to meet in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library.

JUNIOR MEETING.

The Junior Meeting was held prior to the Ordinary Meeting as arranged, and quite an encouraging number of members were present. As this was the first meeting arrangements could only be made to start in full swing next month, and it has been suggested that a pro and con debate take place on "Specialised Work," to be opened by Messrs. Lowe and Richards.

It was decided that a different member shall be chairman at each meeting to increase the interest and enthusiasm, and to give everyone a share in the meetings.

The attendance and opinions of all juniors are cordially invited next month.

F. A. RICHARDS.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT DIVISION.

A most successful meeting of the Association was held at Waterloo Public Library on Thursday, 10th February, by kind invitation of the Libraries and Museum Committee. The visitors were received by Councillor W. H. Eastwood (chairman of the Libraries and Museum Committee) and Mrs. Eastwood. After the party had been conducted through the Library by Miss K. Fearnside, F.L.A. (Chief Librarian), and her assistants, light refreshments were served in the Reference Library, by invitation of the Chairman.

Councillor W. H. Eastwood, addressing the members, said that in extending a cordial welcome to the Library Assistants' Association, he was welcoming a body of public servants who performed arduous duties on behalf of the public which did not often meet with a full share of recognition. This was probably due to the failure to appreciate the work involved in a librarian's duties. He then touched upon some of the phases of library work which he had noticed during his connection with the Waterloo Libraries Committee. While serving in that capacity he could testify to the ability and willingness of Miss Fearnside to place at the disposal of the community the advantages of her reading and knowledge. He then called upon Miss Fearnside, F.L.A., to deliver her address, entitled "A Librarian's Reading."

By way of introducing the subject, Miss Fearnside referred to the view that librarians have ideal conditions and ample opportunities for reading. It was upon such an extravagant opinion that she had chosen her subject. It was not necessary to emphasize the importance of reading, nor the joy of it; but, rather, to indicate certain channels which deal with the basic principles of reading; principles without which there could be neither readers nor librarians in the true sense of the words.

The speaker gave a review of reading from the philosophical standpoint, asking what is reading? and why do we read? The librarian reads for two motives, the personal and the professional; from the need for developing his own personality, and from the need for educating himself to be a guide to others. One cannot be a true librarian if one has not first approached literature through the urge of one's own needs.

Dealing with the professional side, Miss Fearnside said one individual cannot mark out a course of reading for another. Each one must experiment for himself, select the books that are best for himself, hence he must to some extent, know himself.

There are three forms of literature which have special claims upon the interest of librarians : Philosophy, history and poetry.

When speaking of "Workshop Reading," Miss Fearnside mentioned the necessity for keeping a vigilant eye on the professional periodicals. In general periodical literature there was great need for exercising the fine art of skipping. This does not apply to the more serious quarterly and monthly periodicals. One of the librarian's problems is to decide how much time he can spare for them. Most have to be content with a brief review of them.

In her comments on juvenile readers, the speaker said that the child now using the juvenile libraries will make a wider, more intelligent use of libraries than do the present generation. Librarians must keep informed of the latest methods of education, otherwise they are back numbers, and can expect only small and poor results. Miss Fearnside concluded with a plea for library propaganda work. It is the librarian of the future, who will carry on the work under more adequate financial conditions, who must do that propaganda work.

A good discussion followed, contributed to by Mr. E. C. Wickens, Mr. J. A. Stephens, and Mr. C. Bushell. Mr. E. C. Wickens moved a hearty vote of thanks to Councillor W. R. Eastwood for presiding over the meeting, and for his hospitality, to Miss Fearnside for her admirable address, and to the Libraries and Museum Committee for permission to hold the meeting. Mr. J. A. Stephens seconded the vote, which was carried with acclamation. There were about 25 members present.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The South Coast Branch held its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, February 9th, at the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, Brighton.

Mr. Henry D. Roberts, M.B.E., kindly provided tea for the thirty members who attended, but was unfortunately detained in town, and therefore unable to be present. The chair was taken by Mr. James Hutt, M.A., Borough Librarian of Portsmouth, and a most thoughtful paper, jointly written by Messrs. Hayward and Lynn (Portsmouth), was read dealing with the "Qualifications of Librarians and Assistants." An interesting discussion resulted, in which Mr. Hutt, M.A., Miss E. Gerard (Worthing), Miss M. Barnett, Messrs. E. Male, W. Law, A. Webb (Brighton), and Messrs. Hayward and Lynn (Portsmouth), took part. Votes of thanks to the Chairman, to Mr. Roberts, and the writers of the paper, eventually terminated a pleasant meeting.

ERNEST MALE,
Hon. Sec.

OUR LIBRARY.

A GUIDE FOR NOVEL READERS. By Helen M. Cam, M.A., pp. 31, 7 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Young Women's Christian Association. 6d. net.

This little publication is one of the most instructive and sensible things of its kind that we ever remember to have seen. It starts off by recognising that "novelists take rank among the highest thinkers and the finest artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;" it proceeds to point out that "the novel you read easily and forget easily is not worth as much as the novel you want to read a second time," and concludes that "the trouble of looking for the best, and following it up when seen, is a delightful trouble to the reader of English novels." It reminds us that in the Middle Ages if a man had a message he made it into a song; in the days of Elizabeth the message became a play, while now-a-days it takes the form of a novel; there is none of the flabby, half-hearted apology for novel reading which some folk seem to think

necessary; on the contrary Miss Cam says not to read novels is "to miss practically unlimited opportunities both of pleasure and of education." But she pleads always for the best. The guide is divided into three parts: Novels interesting for their general setting, e.g., contemporary life, adventure and romance, historical, nature; novels of character; novels of purpose. These divisions do not consist of interminable lists of obscure publications, but are running commentaries on the books we are handling all day and every day; the comments contain no high falutin' nonsense either, but convey just that information so helpful in changing an indiscriminate browser into an intelligent selector of books. We have much pleasure in recommending the pamphlet as a most excellent sixpennyworth.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

H. CARPENTER, senior assistant (acting branch librarian), Fulham, to be branch librarian. Salary £140, plus Civil Service bonus.

*C. H. JONES and *W. G. SANFORD, junior assistants, Fulham, to be senior assistants. Salary £104, plus Civil Service bonus.

*D. C. JONES, branch librarian, Coventry, to be an assistant, Birmingham. Salary £264 17s. (including bonus).

*J. P. LAMB, senior assistant, Rochdale, to be deputy librarian.

*L. R. MCCOLVIN, F.L.A., reference librarian, Croydon, to be chief assistant (deputy librarian), Wigan. Salary £360 (including fluctuating bonus).

Other selected candidates: *G. H. BUSHNELL, M.S.P., (Birmingham University), A. J. HAWORTH, F.L.A. (Liverpool University), and R. F. Middlehurst (National Library of Wales). Mr. Bushnell withdrew. There were 33 candidates.

R. D. MACLEOD, librarian to the Carnegie U.K. Trust, Dunfermline, has resigned to become consulting librarian to Messrs. W. and R. Holmes, Glasgow and Rochdale.

*C. STOTT, deputy librarian, Rochdale, to be chief librarian and secretary.

* Member, L.A.A.

NEW MEMBERS.

PHYLLIS E. RICH (Greenwich); OLIVER S. JANSON (Sion College). **Associates:** ROSE E. BROWNING (Stoke Newington); CYRIL H. MORRIS (Croydon); GWENDOLINE F. SIGGS (Croydon).

Yorkshire Branch: Misses I. CHESHIRE (Leeds); D. DOBSON (Bradford); I. MILNER (Leeds); IVY SHUTE (Leeds Institute).

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Leonard J. Turner, chief assistant in the Croydon Central Lending Library, in his twenty-third year, after a long illness. Mr. Turner was an enthusiastic member of the Library Assistants' Association, and took the keenest interest in all things pertaining to his profession, especially in the welfare of those who came under his control. He had been a member of the Croydon Libraries' staff since 1912, held three certificates of the Library Association, was a student at the School of Librarianship, and served in Egypt and Palestine throughout the War. His genial, sympathetic and unassuming manner endeared him to all who knew him, and had he been spared there is no doubt but that his future in the library service would have been assured. In his departure we lose a colleague such as the profession can ill afford to spare. The funeral took place on Friday, 25th February, at Mitcham Road, Croydon, when the Honorary Editor had the privilege of attending on behalf of the L.A.A.

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